

Arizona Forest Health Council
Notice of Public Meeting of a Public Body
Sections 7.6, 7.7.4 and 7.9.1
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING OF THE –
Arizona Forest Health Council

Pursuant to A.R.S. Section 38-431, notice is hereby given to the members of the Arizona Forest Health Council and to the general public that the **Arizona Forest Health Council** will hold a meeting open to the public:

Arizona Association of Counties
Board Room
1910 West Jefferson
Phoenix, AZ 85009
Thursday, March 14, 2013
10:00 am – 2:00 pm
Tele Conference Number: 1-877-820-7831
Passcode: 219418#

Minutes

1. Call to Order – 10:00 am Chair, Scott Hunt

Members Present:

Chair Scott Hunt, Pascal Berlioux, Kerwin Dewberry for Neil Bosworth, Kent Bushman, Diane Vosick for Wally Covington, Gary Moore for Robert Davis, Charlie Ester for Bruce Hallin, Kevin Kinsall, Supervisor Tommie Martin, Paul Summerfelt for Mayor Jerry Nabours, and Steve Rosenstock

Members via Tel-Conference:

Steve Gatewood and Sue Sitko

Members Absent:

Don Berry (excused), Nicole Farr (excused), Darrell Willis (excused) and Todd Schulke

Public:

John Morales, Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT); David Priest, ADOT; Don Cassano, ADOT; Rod Lane, ADOT; Floyd Roehrich, ADOT; Ralene Whitmer, ADOT; Cliff Dils, US Forest Service Albuquerque; Jim Gumm, US Forest Service Tonto National Forest; Valerie Myers, National Weather Service; Jerry Payne, Deputy State Forester, David Geyer, State Fire Management Officer Arizona State Forestry; Patrick Rappold, Wood Utilization & Marketing Specialist Arizona State Forestry and Beth Nehring Arizona State Forestry. Additional guests were present from Department of Public Safety for ADOT but they did not sign in.

Chair Scott Hunt welcomed the Forest Health Council members and guests in attendance.

2. Approval of the Minutes from the January FHC Meeting ~

- Pascal Berlioux moved for approval; Kerwin Dewberry second.
- Minutes were approved.

3. Council Representation Update ~ Scott Hunt

- Scott gave the following update on the Council whose appointments have been confirmed:

Supervisor Tommie Martin, Gila County Supervisor Representative, is a native Arizonian, a pioneer forester and a rancher in the community; Jerry Nabours, Mayor for City of Flagstaff; Nicole Farr, Arizona Insurance Council; Neil Bosworth, Tonto

National Forest, and Sue Sitko, The Nature Conservancy Representative has been appointed Co-Chair of the Forest Health Council.

4. Presentation: Highway weight limits & logging trucks ~ Rod Lane, ADOT

- The following handouts were distributed for this presentation: State Milepost System and Summary of Comments of 2012 Map Book
- With the 4FRI Collaborative of 300,000 acres there will be massive increase in logging and how it will affect the highways.
- Floyd Roehrich, Deputy Director, ADOT and Rod Lane, Tucson District Engineer for ADOT was previously the Globe Engineer and dealt with Hwys 263 and 271. They identified 2 other highways with weight limits 473 and 67.
- Rod stated that Hwy 67 has a 20,000 pound weight limit. Title 17 of the Administrative Code there are four to five pages of restrictions. Funding within the agency is a five year program continues to shrink and the demand for transportation increases. Until they can update routes we have to follow the current restrictions. The law cannot be waived. Rod stated that for Hwy 261 it will cost \$5 million to bring it to standards; Hwy 67, \$8.5 million; Hwy 473 \$2.5 million and Hwy 273 has been paid for.
- Pascal reported that the counties maintenance requirement cannot fully budget the repairs. We need to design a system to help fund this maintenance.
- Floyd stated that they monitor the maintenance conditions of roadways constantly. If they see deterioration they need to address it. Maintenance comes out of the highway funds. Floyd would like to work with the Forest Health Council and other groups on the ability to maintain roads. Roads will get better over time.
- Tommie Martin stated that there is a need to prioritize this list. Where does it move and at what time of year. Do a planning perspective – when, where, etc. will this transport take place.
- Scott stated that 261 and 273 wood in that area needs to come out now. Is there any longer term emergency permits available?
- Scott reported we have a Transportation Industry Committee. He would like Floyd to assign someone from ADOT to work with us.
- Cliff Dils reported that Apache Sitgreaves works closely between engineering and the county.

5. Presentation 2013 Fire Season Weather Outlook ~ Valerie Meyers, National Weather Service

- Valerie Meyers gave a weather update. March 2013 50/50 chance normal temperatures, below normal precipitation.
- AZ/NM border we are starting to dry out. Drought severe to extreme conditions. The drought outlook is persistent. La Nina and El Nino – neutral. Above normal temperatures in March, April and May. We will be dealing with wind for the fire season.
- Above normal temperatures July through September. Intense high pressure over four corners section. Fire potential outlook increase to above normal.
- Valerie can be contacted at 602-275-717 or Valerie.meyers@noaa.gov

Presentation 2013 State Deployment Plan ~ David Geyer, Arizona State Forestry

- David is the State Fire Management Officer for State Forestry. He stated that the Mobilization Plan is one of the first in the nation. It is an integrated interagency approach.
- The Arizona State Forestry Division Mobilization Plan is new this year. Last year it was tested. There are 15 groups versus 200 fire departments. This is for extended attack only. Initial attacks are closest resource to keep the fires small. Using the 15 groups will increase response efficiency and help maintain qualifications.
- Scott stated that we have not included federal resources at this time. Arizona Fire Chief's Association, Arizona State Forestry Division, and private contractors will be put in the mix according to the state preparedness level.
- The fifteen groups are not linked to county boundaries. The groups are training together. There are benefits with the departments working together.

6. State Update ~ Kevin Kinsall & Scott Hunt

- **Legislation** ~ Scott stated that we have been following several bills: SB 1001; SB 1282; HB 2301; HB 2481; and HB 2657
- **Natural Resources Review Council** ~ Kevin Kinsall stated that the Governor created Executive Order 2013-02 Establishing the Arizona National Resources Review Council whose main goal will be to develop land and natural resource management strategies for Arizona and coordinate with state natural resource agencies and their existing management plans. This Council will develop a coordinated and centralized GIS system and federal proposal clearinghouse.
- Larry Voyles, Deputy Director of Game & Fish, is the chair of the Council. We will be following activities. Open meeting laws will apply. Presentations will be posted.

7. Statewide/National Forestry Activity Update

- **4 FRI ~ Diane Vosick**
 - Diane reported that the draft DEIS is out on the web. It is not going to be published for 30 days. They had been in Washington DC. We were providing information regarding 4FRI and how we make it successful. They were aware of 4FRI and it had good support. How can we help the investors? What is the per acre cost?
 - Kerwin stated that the Forest Service is very close to entering a task order. Apache Sitgreaves has worked out the issues and task orders will be issued.
 - Pascal reported that letter of comments will be done at the next meeting of 4FRI.
 - Steve Gatewood asked for a statement from the Forest Health Council. This is a large number of people who have good knowledge and can provide knowledge and take a position and comment. With the feedback from the collaborative group can submit a recommendation letter for the Governor.
 - Action Item: Outline for letter in April. Call special session also in April.

- **Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project Update ~Paul Summerfelt**
 - The following handouts were distributed and reviewed: *Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project*; *Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project AT a GLANCE*; and *Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project Evolving Organizations Chart*.
 - Paul stated that Lake Mary Watershed provides 50% of the drinking water to the community. Lessons are still being learned. There was no tax increase. A lot of work is still going on. All groups are meeting at least once a month and will be having public comment periods. We have had a lot of community involvement. NEPA public meeting is scheduled on May 1 with the Forest Service.
 - Information is updated regularly on the website at www.flagstaffwatershedprotectionproject.org
 - Paul stated that they are working on three agreements with the Forest Service; an agreement with the City/State Land/Forestry; GFFP is doing public outreach for the city of Flagstaff. A signing ceremony is going to be scheduled for April 22.
- **Investment Strategies to Restore Arizona Forests & Watersheds Workshop ~**

Diane Vosick reported that they are looking at October 1 or 2 for the workshop to be held at the BLM Training Center. They will have a series of speakers and workshops.

 - Diane also distributed two handouts from the 4FRI Stakeholder Group meeting – *Summary of answers provided by USFS Region 3 regarding the 4FRI Stewardship Contract and The Overview and History of Four Forest Restoration Initiative*.
- **Cohesive Strategy ~ Scott Hunt**
 - Scott provided the Council members with the following handouts: *Western Regional Strategy Committee (WRSC) Update and the draft of The National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy: Phase III Western Regional Action Plan – March 5, 2013*
 - Scott asked the group to refer to page 20 and 21 in the Action Plan for priority table – regional actions. WGA has just hired a full time employee for Cohesive Strategy. WFLC also has hired an employee.
 - Communication outreach is needed for this plan.
- **Arizona Grown Program – Jerry Payne**
 - Arizona Grown Products is a branding program to forest products created in Arizona. There will be a logo and brand to differentiate our products. Forest certifications. Information will be distributed to businesses.
- **Forest Certification Programs – Patrick Rappold**
 - Patrick reviewed his handout, *Overview of Forest Certification Programs and their Relevance to the U.S. Forest Products Industry*
 - Home Depot receives FSC wood. Wood from the forests would be more valuable if certified. The forest service wood is not easy to certify.
 - Scott suggested that the Industry Group review certifications for potential Governor recommendations.
- **Final Work Plan Review and Approval by Council**
- **Reaffirm Committees ~** The group reviewed the list of action items with the final suggestions made:
 - **2. Presentation to Legislative Committees ~**
 - **3. Presentation to Corporation Commission ~** Schedule Fall 2013 presentation. Participates include: Rob Davis, Pascal Berlioux, Steve Gatewood, Patrick Rappold and Scott.
 - **4. Public Outreach Strategy ~** Outreach Task Group will be Bruce Hallin, Pascal Berlioux, and Sue Sitko. Create a one or two page strategy.
 - **5. Industry Support ~** Chair will be Pascal Berlioux. State highway issue will be main focus.

- **6. 4 FRI Status** ~ Committee members: Neil Bosworth, Diane Vosick, Pascal Berlioux, and Steve Gatewood. Consider a letter in support of 4FRI.
- **7. Participate in alternative forest restoration funding discussions** ~ Stay current on the Flagstaff Watershed Project. Items 7 and 13 are related.
- **9. Workforce Training Support** ~ Sue Sitko had no update. Will lend help as needed.
- **10. Community Protection** ~ Plan another WUI Code Workshop. Nicole Farr and Carrie Dennett (State Forestry) Wildland Risk Web Portal - Grant.
- **11. Federal Cohesive Strategy** ~ Forest Health Council will look at hosting a more formal meeting here.
- **12. Fire Preparedness** ~ Presentation done at March meeting
- **15. Good Neighbor Authority** ~ Work with Forest Service contracts. See as a tool.
- **16. NEPA & Adaptive Management** ~ Support federal agencies. Work on developing letters. BLM has just released guidance on adaptive management. Look at new Forest Service directives.
- **17. Land Use Planning for Infrastructure** ~ There is a FHC publication. We need to take steps and meet with associations, due presentations to County Board of Supervisors, also to the public. Darrell Willis and Pascal Berlioux will be on committee.
- **18. USFS Funding** ~ Presentation to FHC on federal dollars. How do you decide where dollars go? Past commitments already implemented. Washington/Regional Office/State. Do CFLRP and Forest Management letter in May.
- **19. Statewide Urban Forestry Committee** ~ Add this action item to the list. Chair will be Kent Bushman, along with Jerry Payne and Alix Rogstad.

8. Call to the Public ~

- Cliff Dils, USFS Region-3 gave a recap to the Council on the sequestration.

8. Meeting Schedule and Locations

- May 9, 2013 – Show Low Arizona

Meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm

This is the time for the public to comment. Members of the Board may not discuss items that are not on the agenda. Therefore, action taken as results of public comment will be limited to directing staff to study the matter or scheduling the matter for further considerations and decisions at a later date.

Dated this March 18, 2013
Arizona Forest Health Council
<http://www.governor.state.az.us/FHC/>